



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **LEBANON MAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Lebanon, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing a firearm.

**Lester D. Erby**, 27, of Lebanon, was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to three years and four months in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 2, 2005, **Erby** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Erby** admitted that he was in possession of a firearm on Feb. 2, 2004, in Laclede County, Mo. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Erby** has a previous criminal felony conviction for tampering with a witness.

**Erby** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 31, 2004, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. It was investigated by the Laclede County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Lebanon, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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